GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:880
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2016
Use of Hindi Language in Courts
Choudhary Shri Ram Tahal;Giluwa Shri Laxman

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

:

(a) the details of provisions governing the use of language in Supreme Court and High Courts in the country;

(b) whether the Government proposes to review or amend the relevant provisions of the Constitution of India to allow and encourage the use of Hindi language in the proceedings in Supreme Court and High Courts;

(c) if so, the details and the present status thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to promote the use of Hindi language in these Courts?

Answer

ANSWER

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA)

(a) : Article 348 (1) of the Constitution of India provides that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court shall be in English language until Parliament by law otherwise provides. Under Article 348(2), the Governor of the State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of the Hindi language or any other language used for any official purpose of the State, in the proceedings of the High Court having its principal seat in that State provided that decrees, judgements or orders passed by such High Courts shall be in English. Section 7 of the Official Languages Act, 1963, provides that the use of Hindi or official language of a State in addition to the English language may be authorized, with the consent of the President of India, by the Governor of the State for the purpose of judgments etc. made by the High Court for that State.

(b) & (c) : Government had taken up with the Supreme Court of India the proposals of the Governments of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka seeking consent of the President of India for allowing regional languages in the proceedings of their High Courts. However, the Full Court of the Supreme Court disapproved these proposals.

(d) : The provision of optional use of Hindi in proceedings has already been made in the High Courts of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar.